GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Contents for Week of November 25, 1929. Vol. VIII. No. 19

1. Guayaquil, "Port o' Planes."
2. The Masai, Africa's Fiercest Fighters, Threaten Trouble.
3. Zagreb Gets Back Its Ivory Panel from America.
4. The Gambusias Travel to Italy and Then to Syria.
5. Seville Reaps an Architectural Harvest from Its Exposition.

© *Photograph by Gertrude Lowy*

SPANISH GIRLS IN SEVILLE FOR THE HOLY WEEK FESTIVAL

(See Bulletin No. 5)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Guayaquil, "Port o' Planes"

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, has become a leading air port for one of the longest air mail lines in the world.

New York recently received letters from Buenos Aires via Guayaquil six days sooner than it ever has before, because the letters came by air.

But, you may protest, Buenos Aires is on the opposite side of South America from Guayaquil. Study of a map will reveal Guayaquil's advantageous position. As long as Pan-American air mail planes follow the coasts, Buenos Aires is nearer New York by the West Coast route than by the East Coast route. Mail planes fly west across the Andes to Chile and then north along the coast to Guayaquil, Panama, Belize, Havana, Miami and New York.

Yellow Fever Handicapped Guayaquil for Years

Until 1918 Guayaquil was handicapped by frequent epidemics. Yellow fever raged there and mariners avoided the port. To-day, thanks to the Ecuadorean government, cooperating with American and Japanese scientists, Guayaquil is a city of more than 100,000 healthy inhabitants, and its trade ranks with the largest ports on the west coast of South America.

Although Guayaquil lies but 40 miles up the Guayas River from the Pacific Ocean, it is nearer New York than San Francisco. Building the Panama Canal reduced sailing distance between the Ecuador port and New York by 9,000 miles.

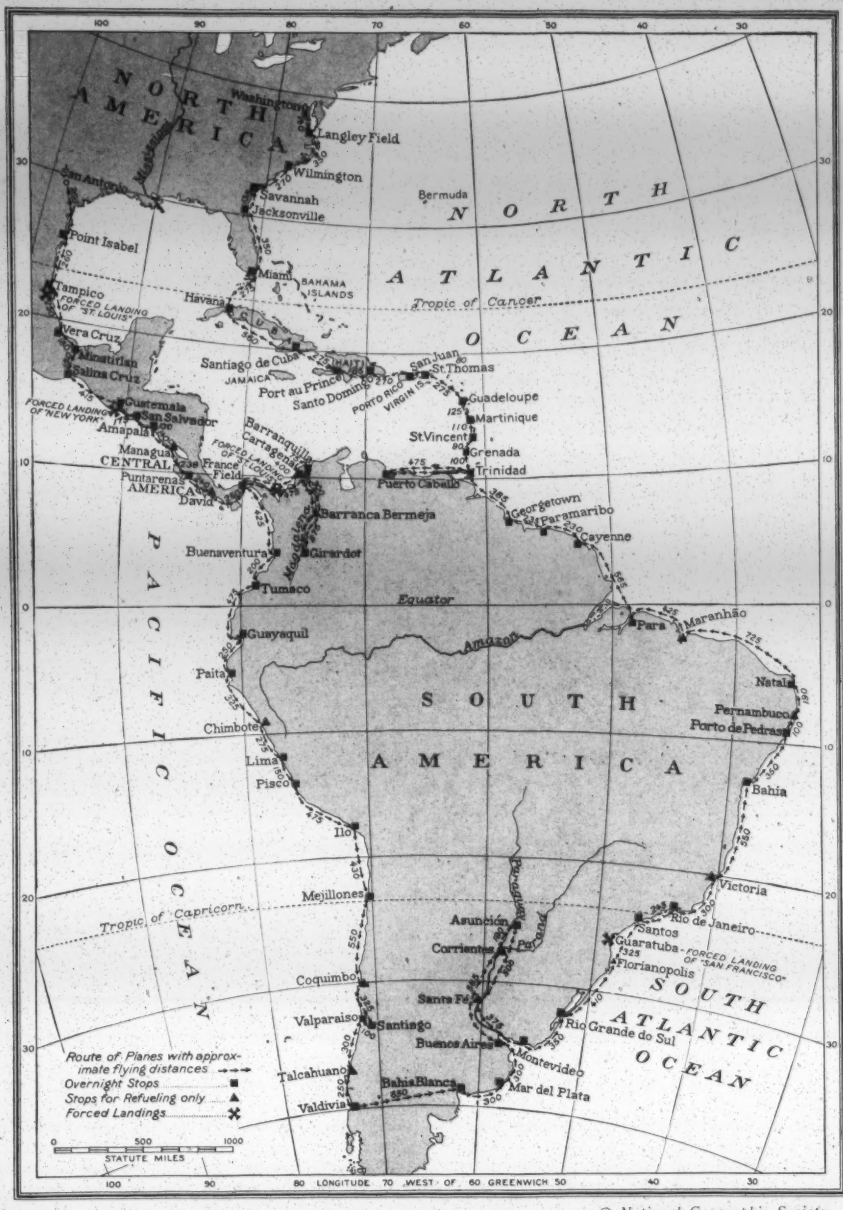
As the large coastal vessels swing into the Gulf of Guayaquil, they pass Puna Island, 30 miles long and 10 miles wide, which, like a huge cork, could close the mouth of the river. The island acts as a natural buffer between the currents of the ocean and river, so that the Guayas is often as smooth as a lake. The tropical sun nurtures thick forests along the river's banks. These forests form a barrier, now and then topped by the fanlike leaves of towering palms.

Native Canoes Bring Down Produce

Guayaquil harbor is a perpetual parade of boats of all sizes, from the crudest native dugouts to the huge-funnelled ocean-going craft, which are loaded and unloaded as they lie at anchor offshore. Native canoes, rude, but swift as American skiffs, larger boats which resemble Chinese sampans, and bamboo and cane rafts carry cacao beans, alligator pears, melons, bananas, mangoes, guavas, limes, peaches, apples, cherries, strawberries and many other native products. Many of these products come from remote regions touched by Guayas tributaries. Bamboo huts in the center of some of the rafts house the skippers' families, their poultry, and dogs.

The city spreads out on a broad plain which is not more than 4 feet above the sea at high tide. A solid row of low buildings lines the quay. Their first floors are hidden in the shadows of arcades, while the balconied upper floors are shielded from the sun by reed awnings.

Most of the buildings are white, but here and there a pale pink or blue one adds color to a row. These appear to be substantial, but close observation reveals that many have bamboo frames, covered with plaster or stucco, and, in some cases, are painted to resemble marble.



© National Geographic Society

U. S. ARMY AIRPLANES BLAZED THE ROUTES FOR SOUTH AMERICAN AIR MAIL SERVICES

New York has recently received letters from Buenos Aires which came by airplane over the Andes and up the West Coast to Panama, Havana, and Miami. Another air mail line has been inaugurated through the West Indies and down the East Coast of South America. Some day a direct route will be projected through the center of the continent (See Bulletin No. 1).

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

The Masai, Africa's Fiercest Fighters, Threaten Trouble

WILL the Masai break loose?

That question concerns Kenya Colony in British East Africa. The Governor reports increasing lawlessness on the part of the young Masai tribesmen. Fear of an uprising among these African "Iroquois" has prompted the government to post heavier guards around the Masai reservation in Kenya.

When the Prince of Wales visited Nairobi, Kenya Colony, some months ago, the Masai tribesmen entertained him with a war dance. Amid roaring war whoops the tribesmen, hidden behind their large shields, menacingly wielded their spears in a way which showed the Prince why explorers avoid Masai villages when the tribesmen are on the warpath.

While members of the tribe near Nairobi have been tamed by British and missionary influence and have settled down on plantations, their relatives in the hills of western Kenya still raid neighboring tribes when not tending their herds.

Every Masai Village Is a Military Barracks

A Masai village is a military barracks. At the call of the chief, the young warriors don lion manes which they wear about their heads, and, perhaps, a string of beads. With spears and leather shields as their only arms, they set out to attack the "enemy."

The Masai begins his military career at 16. When he is 30, he becomes an elder, settles down, and has as many wives as he desires. The furniture in his home of mud-plastered sticks costs no more than his clothes. Over an open fireplace hangs an iron kettle, while additional utensils are made of gourds. A long gourd is a Masai milk can, and half gourds are used for cups. Some of the huts have three-legged stools for the older tribesmen.

Even when the Masai is not on the warpath, the American traveler would be inclined to avoid him for sanitary reasons. Spitting upon a visitor serves as a greeting among some of the tribesmen. Everyone who sees a newborn baby must spit on it. If a warrior is friendly, he spits on his hand before greeting a stranger.

Masai Women Wear 25 Pounds of Jewelry

Outside the villages one might stumble upon the skeleton of a tribesman whose body has been left to the hyenas, jackals and vultures. Only the chief of the tribe deserves a burial. After a chief has been buried for a year the son of his successor digs up the old chief's skull, which is a treasured possession in the village.

The tribesman's wives presiding over his hut jingle with every move. Their legs and arms are covered with dozens of wire rings. These adornments and a dozen or more rings encircling their necks weigh from 15 to 25 pounds. Both men and women often wear wood cylinders and tin cans in their distended ear lobes.

Missionaries have found it almost impossible to convert Masai tribesmen from Nature worship. When the chief wishes to invoke the pleasure of the gods, all the children in the village stand in a circle and chant. Grass is sacred to the tribesmen. If a Masai hands a stranger a tuft of green grass, it suggests friendship. When young warriors start out on raids their sweethearts throw grass upon them to insure victory. The hyena has a certain sacred character. If a beast happens to cross

Donkey Still Important in Life of Town

In the business streets the ground floors of buildings are usually occupied by open front shops. In these shops an English, French or American woman may buy perfumes, cosmetics and other "necessaries" almost as readily as in a store of her home town.

The streets resound with the clatter of hoofs, for in Guayaquil the donkey and horse have not been wholly displaced by the automobile. The grocery boy straddles the rump of one of these animals. In front of him his deliveries are packed in crates which hang over both sides of his mount. The donkey also is the Guayaquil "ice wagon" and, while the city has electric cars, the donkey-drawn vehicle is still patronized by people who appear unhurried. One of the most ridiculous sights in the Guayaquil streets is an elongated native riding a donkey so small that the rider's feet, if extended, would drag the ground.

There are few spots in Guayaquil where the traveler is out of the range of the odor of cacao beans. In the side streets, large areas are covered with beans which are frequently turned so that each bean will have the benefit of the sun's rays. Cocoa is Guayaquil's major export.

Bulletin No. 1, November 25, 1929.

© *Photograph by Richard B. Hoit*

DUGOUTS AT GUAYAQUIL'S FRONT DOOR

The oldest and the newest in transportation may now be seen side by side in the port of Guayaquil, Ecuador, since Pan-American airplanes stop there regularly.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Zagreb Gets Back Its Ivory Panel from America

A SMALL carved ivory panel, 10 by 12 inches, has linked the interests of the city of Zagreb, Croatia, to the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

The director of the Cleveland Museum of Art recently restored the ivory panel, valued at $10,000, to the Jugoslavian minister, who has dispatched it back to Zagreb. The panel depicting the suffering of Christ was stolen from the Zagreb Cathedral, Cleveland Museum investigators discovered, and replaced by an imitation. After having been bought and sold by various European dealers, the carving came to a prominent art dealer of New York who sold it to Cleveland.

Changes Come Swiftly in Jugoslavia

Where is Zagreb, many will ask?

It cannot be found on many European maps, although it is the chief city of Croatia and Slavonia, a major province of Jugoslavia. Changes have come so swiftly in Jugoslavia that it is hard to pin names anywhere. Until a few weeks ago Jugoslavia was the Serb-Croat-Slovene State. According to recent reports, the old provinces, such as Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Slavonia and Serbia, have been dissolved and new ones created. By the time the ivory panel gets to Zagreb, it may no longer be Zagreb or the capital of a province.

The printing on the new National Geographic Society map of Europe had to be halted to change the names to conform to Jugoslavia's most recent decisions.

Even the Railroad Approach to the City Is Attractive

Zagreb lies in one of Nature's garden spots among the foothills of the Agram Mountains. At its back door rise peaks of varying heights, while to the south the city overlooks a broad, fertile plain where, for centuries, the Croatians have tilled their well-kept, highly productive farms and tended their vineyards.

Even the railroad approach to the city is attractive. Instead of the unsightly railroad yards of many cities, Zagreb's right-of-way is bordered by the Botanical Gardens and numerous parks. And from the station to the center of the city one passes a series of parks for several blocks which resemble, on a small scale, the Mall of Washington, D. C.

The Jelacic *trg*, or great square, a block beyond the head of the parkway, might be called the melting pot of Zagreb and neighboring Croatia. It is adorned with a statue of Josef Jelacic, Croatia's most famous *banus*, hero of the Croatian Revolution of 1848.

Cathedral Stands Not Far from Busy Market Square

On market days, Jelacic looks down upon a teeming mass of humanity, urban, suburban and rural. Shortly after daybreak long lines of tables are set out on the cobbles until every available place is occupied. They even cramp the coffee shops on the southern side of the square.

Peasant women, arranging their produce for the brisk trade to follow, wear white waists, and their skirts are emblazoned with colored embroidery down the front, around the waist and across the apron. Voluminous knee-length skirts and soft, moccasin-like shoes complete their costume. More colors of brilliant variety

the path of a warrior, the whole tribe goes in mourning. The python is held in veneration, for they believe that the souls of their ancestors are reborn in them.

Some Believe in a Black God and a Red God

Some tribesmen worship a black and a red god. The black god is benevolent, living immediately above the earth, while the red god lives farther up in the heavens. When the Masai hear thunder, they believe the red god is trying to get through the domain of the black god. The rumbling is the voice of the black god pleading with the red god not to harm the tribesmen below.

The Masai hate farming. They are cattle herders when not on the warpath, and live entirely upon the food their herds provide. It is a common practice to drink warm blood immediately after it has been drawn from a cow shot with an arrow through the jugular vein.

Note: Teachers seeking material on life among the African tribes can find much information and many illustrations in the *National Geographic Magazine,* notably in "Two Fighting Tribes of the Sudan," October, 1929; "Cairo to Cape Town, Overland," February, 1925; "'Lost Tribes of Islam' in Eastern Darfur," January, 1924; Ethiopian Tribes, June, 1925, August, 1928; and "Through Deserts and Jungles of Africa by Motor," June, 1926. For additional articles consult the "Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine" which is available in most libraries.

Bulletin No. 2, November 25, 1929.

© *Photograph by H. T. Cowling*

FEMININE FASHIONS AMONG THE MASAI WOMEN

In some regions of Africa it is almost impossible to maintain telegraph service. The beaux and belles of native tribes are so anxious for copper wire to make into ornaments that they will raid a telegraph line if the occasion offers. Some of the most fashionably wired native women wear as much as 12 or 15 pounds of metal on each leg.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

The Gambusias Travel to Italy and Then to Syria

THE Gambusias, who have been in Italy for some years, are now reported to be in Syria. They have been very well received in the Near East.

The Gambusias, although they have a Latin name, are not Italian immigrants who have made their fortunes in the United States and have returned to their native land. They are native, blue-blood Americans, inhabitants of most of the Southern States.

A prominent fish family are the Gambusias. They belong to the top-minnow class and are experts in the consumption of mosquito wrigglers. Their talents as wriggler catchers have recommended them to Italy, where they have been introduced in the swamps. From Italy the Gambusias have gone on to conquer new mosquito marshes in the Near East.

Can Fish for American Bass Now on Any Continent

Poland recently asked for a shipment of Gambusias from the United States Bureau of Fisheries, but the request had to be rejected because Gambusias cannot live in a severe climate. The Potomac River and Southern Illinois are their northern limit in the United States.

The Gambusias first crossed the Atlantic in 1921. Scientists of note in Spain and Italy went into conference to determine the best application of the services which the Gambusias offered to the Old World. They decided to turn the efforts of the Gambusias toward the Campagna around Rome.

Since before the days of the Empire, the Campagna has been a problem to Italy. Rich soil under a warm sun invites men to plow and to reap. But there also are marshes and swamps because the land is low. Mosquitoes infest the marshes and strike down the man who dares to accept the invitation of sun and soil. On wing they spread disease. Time and again they have decimated the population. Towns once thriving have been deserted.

Recent reports from the land of Mussolini and elsewhere testify to the success of the American minnows. Plows turn the black soil. The mosquito with his malarial cargo is not so numerous. The splendid work of the Gambusias in the United States, their own native land, has been eclipsed by their accomplishments abroad.

Native American fish species have become wide travelers. Fishermen now angle for American bass on every continent. The various trout also have been transplanted to many foreign countries.

Gambusias Unique in Traveling on Health Mission

Japan has been especially eager to get American fish species in order to increase her fishery resources. The Japanese use great quantities of fish. Other countries like New Zealand seek American varieties for sport purposes. Game fish transplanted from the United States to New Zealand have been found to grow larger and provide better sport than their father and mother fishes ever did at home.

The Gambusias remain unique among fish travelers in serving the cause of better health.

Bulletin No. 4, November 25, 1929.

are displayed in their head shawls, so tightly wrapped that, despite their high cheek bones, their faces are softened to pleasing ovals.

At noon the market closes, unsold merchandise is quickly packed, and the peasants begin a round of fun until evening, when they return to their rural homes. Some go to the coffee shops, where the white tables are as spotless as the dresses and trousers of their patrons, while others go to the amusement park to eat, drink, sing and dance. Meanwhile, the square is given a thorough cleaning. By nightfall the stones have been polished until they shine, and even the minutest piece of lettuce leaf or pear stem cannot be found.

The University, with more than 3,000 students, is in the old town, while the Zagreb Cathedral, a beautiful fifteenth century Gothic structure, is about two blocks from the *trg* in the Upper Town.

Note: While the close of the World War brought about division of some European countries, it created larger units in the Balkans. Serbia, in becoming Jugoslavia, has more than doubled its area. This expansion has been accompanied by "growing pains" which figure constantly in foreign news reports. A study of the Jugoslavia sea coast regions is contained in "Dalmatian Days," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1928.

Bulletin No. 3, November 25, 1929.

© *Photograph by Hans Hildenbrand*

HONEST WEIGHT IN ZAGREB'S PUBLIC MARKET

Zagreb is one of the European cities where the use of native costumes for everyday wear still lingers. Paris and London fashions so dominate the continent that the brilliant native costumes of the various peoples are seldom seen except on high days and holidays.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Seville Reaps an Architectural Harvest from Its Exposition

SEVILLE has some new architectural gems which are permanent by-products of the Ibero-American Exposition held there last summer.

One is the new home of the American consul which housed the United States exhibit during the exposition and will house the consulate. Spanish colonial style developed in California guided the architect of the building.

Other permanent pavilions built for the exposition will be used to house a Spanish-American university. All the new buildings fit comfortably in the ancient scheme of Seville's architecture. Seville, on the banks of the Guadalquivir River in southwestern Spain, is the last large city in Spain to defy modernism by retaining the old customs and modes of living.

Where Bullfighting Began

During the day, life in Seville centers in the main shopping street, the Calle de Los Sierpes, or Street of the Serpents. Shops sell fans, cigarettes and laces as well as the necessaries of life. Cafés, lining the streets, are filled with Sevillanos sipping chocolate, coffee or liqueurs and absorbed in dominoes. Occasional bronze skins, coupled with hawk noses and flashing eyes, betray Moorish blood in the veins of many passersby.

Seville on a Sunday or a feast day is particularly the Spanish city of tradition. Peasants from the countryside come into town in all their rustic finery. Brilliant silks vie with just as brilliant embroideries in the costumes of the women. The Sevillanos themselves are more restrained in their costumes. Some of the women dress their hair in curious fashion, others follow Paris styles, but most of them wear lace mantillas. Tourists discover that the women of Seville have not lost the art of wielding a fan.

The most popular spot in Seville on such days is the arena, the Plaza de Toros. It is recorded that the first bullfight ever staged took place in Seville in 1405 in the Plaza del Triunfo, to celebrate the birth of a son to Henry II of Castile. Although bullfighting spread through Spain and parts of other European countries, Seville remains its home. The Sevillanos are its most ardent devotees. The toreadors are not the least colorful features of the spectacle. In their gay knicker and bolero costumes, with scarlet sashes, they make vivid figures in the arena.

The Cathedral, the Alcazar and the Giralda Tower

Triana, a suburb of Seville, across the Guadalquivir, is renowned for its potteries, which show a decided Moorish influence. They also make baskets of reed and grass. Many of the people of Triana are Gitanos, or gypsies, and their lively suburb echoes as often to castanets as to the potter's wheel.

While Seville, in common with other large Continental cities, has electricity, tramways and automobiles, it is not so modernized as Madrid. Only hotel keepers seem to know English, and French is seldom heard.

Among Seville's older architectural attractions are the Cathedral, the Alcazar and the Giralda. The Cathedral, which is a huge example of modified Gothic, houses some of Murillo's paintings. The house of Al-Kasr, the Alcazar, a Moorish palace, suffers by comparison with the Alhambra at Granada. The Giralda, a bell

© National Geographic Society

SEINING SMALL FISHES FROM A CUT-OFF POND NEAR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

The U. S. Bureau of Fisheries transplants fish for distances that vary from a few hundred yards to halfway around the earth. North America, compared to other continents, is believed to be rich in fish species, and the United States has been liberal in transplanting representative American fishes to other countries. Numerous articles on American fresh and salt water fishes, accompanied with color plates that have appeared in the *National Geographic Magazine*, have been collected and published by The Society in The Book of Fishes, a valuable source for anyone studying America's fishery resources.

tower of Moorish origin, is Seville's most beautiful monument. At its base lies the Court of Oranges, where orange blossoms perfume the air and a fountain, erected by the Moors, still plays.

Holy Week Marked by Colorful Processions Day and Night

Church festivals in Seville culminate at Easter, following the usual Holy Week observance. Visitors to the International Exposition saw this ancient festival, which dates from 1507. Beginning Palm Sunday there are processions every day until Good Friday. Holy Thursday night the procession passes during the entire night. From 25 to 30 brotherhoods participate. The members wear distinctive uniforms, many of them monk-like habits designed in medieval times.

Holy Week ends with solemn ceremonies in the Cathedral Easter morning. Easter afternoon the Sevillanos top off the festival with a gala bullfight which is the biggest event of the season.

Note: Additional illustrations and material on Seville can be found in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1929. This issue proves of especial value when the geography class turns to Spain and the Mediterranean region because it is entirely devoted to Spanish subjects. Other recent articles on Spain appeared in August, 1928, August, 1924, and January, 1922.

Bulletin No. 5, November 25, 1929.

© *Photograph from Richard Ford*

CARMEN'S CIGARETTE FACTORY LOOKS LIKE A PALACE

A large percentage of the several thousand workers employed here are named Carmen, and local tradition has it that the heroine of Bizet's opera, now a very old woman, is still numbered among those who pass out between the iron gates at this hour each evening.